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The predefined functions may be functions for generating, deploying, monitoring, or otherwise interacting with a collaboration.

In the Claims:

For the convenience of the Examiner, a clean copy of all pending claims is set forth below. Please refer to the attached sheets for mark-ups reflecting changes to the claims.

- SUBC1*
1. **(Amended)** A computer-implemented process for managing a distributed workflow, operable to:
store a set of predefined functions for a workflow that are to be performed at a plurality of distributed nodes; and
automatically interact with the workflow at each of the distributed nodes to perform the predefined functions.
 - AS 102*
2. **(Amended)** The process of Claim 1, wherein the set of predefined functions are operable to generate a workflow between a plurality of enterprises.
 3. **(Amended)** The process of Claim 1, wherein the set of predefined functions are operable to transmit data associated with operation of the workflow at each of the distributed nodes to a monitoring system.
 4. **(Amended)** The process of Claim 1, wherein the set of predefined functions are operable to deploy the workflow to the distributed nodes.

SUB(2) 5. (Amended) A computer-implemented process for generating a collaboration between a plurality of enterprises, operable to:

- receive a preliminary collaboration from a first enterprise;
- automatically transmit the preliminary collaboration from the computer-implemented process to a predefined second enterprise for review;
- receive a response to the preliminary collaboration from the second enterprise;
- automatically transmit the response of the second enterprise from the computer-implemented process to the first enterprise for review; and
- receive a response to the response of the second enterprise from the first enterprise, the responses of the first and second enterprises ultimately resulting in a final collaboration based on the preliminary collaboration and optimized for the first and second enterprises.

6. (Amended) The process of Claim 5, wherein the response of the first enterprise comprises a comment on the preliminary collaboration.

7. (Amended) The process of Claim 5, wherein the response of the first enterprise comprises a modification of the preliminary collaboration.

Please cancel Claims 8 and 9 without prejudice or disclaimer.

54363 10. **(Amended)** The process of Claim 5, further operable to;
receive an approval from each of the first and second enterprises for a collaboration
based on the preliminary collaboration and reflecting the responses of the first and second
enterprises;

043 subsequent to receiving the approvals from the first and second enterprises,
automatically transmit the collaboration from the computer-implemented process to a
predefined third enterprise for review;

receive a response to the collaboration from the third enterprise;
automatically transmit the response of the third enterprise from the computer-
implemented process to the first and second enterprises for review; and

receive responses to the response of the third enterprise from the first and second
enterprises, the responses of the first, second, and third enterprises ultimately resulting in a
final collaboration based on the preliminary collaboration and optimized for the first, second,
and third enterprises.

11. **(Amended)** The process of Claim 10, wherein the response of the third
enterprise comprises a comment on the collaboration.

12. **(Amended)** The process of Claim 10, wherein the response of the third
enterprise comprises a modification to the collaboration.

Please cancel Claims 13 and 14 without prejudice or disclaimer.

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15. **(Amended)** A computer-implemented process for deploying a collaboration generated by a first enterprise to a plurality of other enterprises, operable to:

- receive a final collaboration approved by first, second, and third enterprises;
- automatically transmit a predefined first part of the collaboration from the computer-implemented process to a predefined second enterprise for operation at the second enterprise;
- and

automatically transmit a predefined second part of the collaboration from the computer-implemented process to a predefined third enterprise for operation at the third enterprise.

16. **(Amended)** The process of Claim 15, further operable to:

- request an approval from the second enterprise for operation of the first part of the collaboration at a node of the second enterprise; and
- request an approval from the third enterprise for operation of the second part of the collaboration at a node of the third enterprise.

17. **(Amended)** The process of Claim 16, further operable to, in response to receiving the approval from the second enterprise, notify the third enterprise of the approval.

18. **(Amended)** The process of Claim 16, further operable to, in response to receiving the approvals from the second and third enterprises, transmit a signal to the second and third enterprises to operate the first and second parts of the collaboration, respectively.

19. **(Amended)** The process of Claim 16, further operable to, in response to receiving approvals to operate the collaboration from all enterprises to which any part of the collaboration was transmitted, transmit a signal to all of the enterprises to which any part of the collaboration was transmitted to operate the corresponding transmitted parts of the collaboration.

20. **(Amended)** A computer-implemented process for monitoring a collaboration across a plurality of enterprises, operable to:

receive a first predefined set of data associated with operation of a first portion of the collaboration at a first node of a first enterprise, the first set of data having been collected in response to an automatic query of the first node for the first set of data;

automatically transmit the first set of data from the computer-implemented process to a monitoring system in response to the querying of the first node;

receive a second predefined set of data associated with operation of a second portion of the collaboration at a second node of a second enterprise, the second set of data having been collected in response to an automatic query of the second node for the second set of data; and

automatically transmit the second set of data from the computer-implemented process to the monitoring system in response to the querying of the second node.

21. **(New)** A method of managing a distributed workflow using an intermediary computer system, comprising:

using the intermediary computer system, storing a set of predefined functions for a workflow that are to be performed at a plurality of distributed nodes; and

using the computer intermediary system, automatically interacting with the workflow at each of the distributed nodes to perform the predefined functions.

22. **(New)** The method of Claim 21, wherein the set of predefined functions are operable to generate a workflow between a plurality of enterprises.

23. **(New)** The method of Claim 21, wherein the set of predefined functions are operable to transmit data associated with operation of the workflow at each of the distributed nodes to a monitoring system.

24. **(New)** The method of Claim 21, wherein the set of predefined functions are operable to deploy the workflow to the distributed nodes.

25. (New) A method of generating a collaboration between a plurality of enterprises, comprising:

receiving, at an intermediary computer system, a preliminary collaboration from a first enterprise;

automatically transmitting the preliminary collaboration from the intermediary computer system to a predefined second enterprise for review;

receiving, at the intermediary computer system, a response to the preliminary collaboration from the second enterprise;

automatically transmitting the response of the second enterprise from the intermediary computer system to the first enterprise for review; and

receiving, at the intermediary computer system, a response to the response of the second enterprise from the first enterprise, the responses of the first and second enterprises ultimately resulting in a final collaboration based on the preliminary collaboration and optimized for the first and second enterprises.

26. (New) The method of Claim 25, wherein the response of the first enterprise comprises a comment on the preliminary collaboration.

27. (New) The method of Claim 25, wherein the response of the first enterprise comprises a modification of the preliminary collaboration.

28. (New) The method of Claim 25, further comprising;
receiving, at the intermediary computer system, an approval from each of the first and second enterprises for a collaboration based on the preliminary collaboration and the responses from the first and second enterprises;
subsequent to receiving approval from the first and second enterprises, automatically transmitting the collaboration from the intermediary computer system to a predefined third enterprise for review;
receiving, at the intermediary computer system, a response to the collaboration from the third enterprise;
automatically transmitting the response of the third enterprise from the intermediary computer system to the first and second enterprises for review; and
receiving, at the intermediary computer system, responses to the response of the third enterprise from the first and second enterprises, the responses of the first, second, and third enterprises ultimately resulting in a final collaboration based on the preliminary collaboration and optimized for the first, second, and third enterprises.

29. (New) The method of Claim 28, wherein the response of the third enterprise comprises a comment on the collaboration.

30. (New) The method of Claim 28, wherein the response of the third enterprise comprises a modification to the collaboration.

31. (New) The method of Claim 25, wherein automatically transmitting the preliminary collaboration comprises transmitting the preliminary collaboration according to a predefined function carried out by the intermediary computer system.

32. (New) The method of Claim 25, wherein automatically transmitting a response to an enterprise comprises transmitting the response according to a predefined function carried out by the intermediary computer system.

33. (New) The method of Claim 25, wherein the responses of the first and second enterprises are made according to corresponding privileges specifying one or more types of responses the first and second enterprises are allowed to make, at least one type of allowed response for the first enterprise being different from at least one type of allowed response for the second enterprise.

34. (New) The method of Claim 25, further comprising:
automatically transmitting the preliminary collaboration from the intermediary computer system to a predefined third enterprise for review;
receiving, at the intermediary computer system, a response to the preliminary collaboration from the third enterprise;
automatically transmitting the response of the third enterprise from the intermediary computer system to the first and second enterprises for review; and
receive responses to the response of the third enterprise from the first and second enterprises, the responses of the first, second, and third enterprises ultimately resulting in a final collaboration based on the preliminary collaboration and optimized for the first, second, and third enterprises.

35. (New) The method of Claim 25, wherein the first and second enterprises are in a first group of enterprises and the method further comprises:
receiving, at the intermediary computer system, approval for the collaboration from all enterprises in the first group; and
subsequent to receiving approval for the collaboration from all enterprises in the first group, automatically transmitting the collaboration from the intermediary computer system to a predefined second group of one or more enterprises for review.

36. (New) The method of Claim 35, wherein:

the responses of the enterprises in the first group are made according to corresponding first privileges specifying one or more types of responses the enterprises in the first group are allowed to make;

the responses of the enterprises in the second group are made according to corresponding second privileges specifying one or more types of responses the enterprises in the second group are allowed to make; and

the first privileges specify a greater number of types of responses than the second privileges.

37. (New) The method of Claim 25, wherein:

the preliminary collaboration is an outline for a more specific collaboration between the first and second enterprises;

the reviews and responses by the first and second enterprises comprise a general stage of collaboration design; and

a specific stage of collaboration design following the general stage comprises reviews and responses by the first and second enterprises of details of the more specific collaboration.

38. (New) A method of deploying a collaboration generated by a first enterprise to a plurality of other enterprises, comprising:

receiving, at an intermediary computer system, a final collaboration approved by the first enterprise, a predefined second enterprise, and a predefined third enterprise;

automatically transmitting a predefined first part of the collaboration from the intermediary computer system to a predefined second enterprise for operation at the second enterprise; and

automatically transmitting a predefined second part of the collaboration from the intermediary computer system to a predefined third enterprise for operation at the third enterprise.

39. (New) The method of Claim 38, further comprising:

using the intermediary computer system, requesting approval from the second enterprise for operation of the first part of the collaboration at a node of the second enterprise;
and

using the intermediary computer system, requesting approval from the third enterprise for operation of the second part of the collaboration at a node of the third enterprise.

40. (New) The method of Claim 39, further comprising, in response to receiving approval from the second enterprise and using the intermediary computer system, notifying the third enterprise of the approval.

41. (New) The method of Claim 39, further comprising, in response to receiving approval from the second and third enterprises and using the intermediary computer system, transmitting a signal to the second and third enterprises to operate the first and second parts of the collaboration, respectively.

42. (New) The method of Claim 39, further comprising, using the intermediary computer system and in response to receiving approval to operate the collaboration from all enterprises to which any part of the collaboration was transmitted, transmitting a signal to all enterprises to which any part of the collaboration was transmitted to operate the corresponding transmitted parts of the collaboration.

43. (New) The method of Claim 42, wherein the collaboration is deployed but not run by any of the enterprises to which any part of the collaboration was transmitted until approval has been received, at the intermediary computer system, from a specified number of these enterprises to avoid prematurely running the collaboration for a subset of these enterprises or prematurely terminating older versions of the collaboration.

44. (New) A method of monitoring a collaboration across a plurality of enterprises, comprising:

receiving, at an intermediary computer system, a first predefined set of data associated with operation of a first portion of the collaboration at a first node of a first enterprise, the first set of data having been collected in response to an automatic query of the first node for the first set of data;

automatically transmitting the first set of data from the intermediary computer system to a monitoring system in response to the query of the first node;

receiving, at the intermediary computer system, a second predefined set of data associated with operation of a second portion of the collaboration at a second node of a second enterprise, the second set of data having been collected in response to an automatic query of the second node for the second set of data; and

automatically transmitting the second set of data from the intermediary computer system to the monitoring system in response to the query of the second node.

45. (New) The method of Claim 44, wherein:

the automatic query of the first node is conducted by a first agent operating at the first node; and

the automatic query of the second node is conducted by a second agent operating at the second node.

46. (New) The method of Claim 44, wherein:

the automatic transmission of the first set of data is in response to a first predefined event; and

the automatic transmission of the second set of data is in response to a second predefined event.

47. (New) The method of Claim 44, further comprising:

automatically querying each of a plurality of nodes of a plurality of enterprises for a plurality of predefined sets of data associated with operation of corresponding portions of the collaboration at the plurality of nodes;

receiving, at an intermediary computer system, the plurality of sets of data from the plurality of nodes; and

automatically transmitting the plurality of sets of data from the computer-implemented process to a monitoring system.

48. (New) A system for generating a collaboration between a plurality of enterprises, comprising:

means for receiving a preliminary collaboration from a first enterprise;

means for automatically transmitting the preliminary collaboration to a predefined second enterprise for review;

means for receiving a response to the preliminary collaboration from the second enterprise;

means for automatically transmitting the response of the second enterprise to the first enterprise for review; and

means for receiving a response to the response of the second enterprise from the first enterprise, the responses of the first and second enterprises ultimately resulting in a final collaboration based on the preliminary collaboration and optimized for the first and second enterprises.
